

wherein

said test cell stores information specifying source and destination station telephone numbers of the test cell, and

said software executed by said software executing means conducts said inter-station loopback test in the switching network according to the information specifying the source and destination station telephone numbers of the test cell.

REMARKS

It is noted with appreciation that claim 92 is allowed. Also allowable subject matter was found in claims 94, 46-48, 53 and 54 and these claims will be allowable if rewritten to overcome rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 for indefiniteness.

In particular, claims 46-48, 50, 53, 54, and 94, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. A large number of objections were raised primarily concerned with antecedent basis in the claim language.

Each and every item mentioned by the Examiner has been given attention. It is respectfully submitted that the

rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 for indefiniteness were overcome by the amendments above. Additionally, claims 93, 43 and 44 were objected to for informality in defining claim 41 as the parent in claim 93, whereas claim 92 is the actual parent claim. This objection has been given suitable attention.

Claims 95 and 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 for obviousness over Turudic (5,422,876) in view of Jones (4,543,654) both references having been cited previously.

The rejection of claim 95 and dependent claim 50 for obviousness in view of the cited references is respectfully traversed.

Claim 95 discloses a configuration corresponding to Fig. 816 and has the following features.

(a) A switch station is preliminarily provided and installed with a program for a loopback test.

(b) A loopback test is performed by executing this program.

(c) The input highway and the output highway of a switch station are connected to a loopback device during the period in which a loopback test is performed.

Turudic discloses a method of a loopback test performed for a transmission line. Fig. 4, in particular, shows that a terminating equipment 114, itself, initiates the loopback testing. A loopback control unit 128 of a repeater 116 apparently is configured to connect a transit line 122 and a receive line 124, both of which are respectively connected to the terminating equipment 114.

Claim 95 of the present invention applies to switch stations within a packet communication network, while in contrast, Turudic applies to the TDM and is not concerned in particular, with technology associated with switch stations.

Turudic, as stated above, does not disclose, teach or anticipate the configuration of the present invention, in which a switch station by itself initiates execution of a loopback test.

For these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention is not made obvious by the references taken alone or in combination, and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 for obviousness is inappropriate in this case.


An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. It is respectfully believed that independent claims 94, 95, 53 and 54 are in condition for allowance as well as previously allowed claim 92. Additionally, all claims dependent directly or indirectly from the independent claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

This amendment is not believed to add new matter, raise new issues or require additional searching on the part of the Examiner. Entry of the amendment and passage of this case to allowance are earnestly solicited.

However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that he telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper, not fully covered by an enclosed check, may be charged on Deposit Account No. 08-1634. The attached pages are captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".

Respectfully submitted,


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LC:tqa. FUJO 12.880Aa
April 18, 2001

"VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE"

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

93. (Amended) The switch station according to claim [41] 92, wherein the control information is communicated according to link access protocol.

94. (Amended) A switch station, which exchanges a packet with a predetermined format, comprising ;

- a switch exchanging the packet;
- a control processor controlling operations of this switch station;
- a memory storing control information; and
- direct memory access unit directly writing to or reading from said memory the control information; wherein

said control processor transmits a control packet with the predetermined format via said switch to a terminal which is connected to this switch station, and wherein

the terminal reads the control information from said memory using said direct memory access unit according to the [received] control packet and performs an operation according to the control information.

46. (Twice Amended) The switch station according to claim 94 wherein

said control [information] packet contains a command code and address data to be processed by said direct memory access [means] unit.

47. (Twice Amended) The switch station according to claim [,] 94, wherein

said control [information] packet is assigned routing information [to allow a switch in the exchange station to be identified and route the control information cell through a path accommodating] which identifies a path in said switch in the switch station to said direct memory access [means] unit or the terminal [unit].

48. (Twice Amended) The switch station according to claim 94, wherein

output of said direct memory access [means] unit is connected to a multiplexing circuit connected to an input highway of the [exchange] switch station.

50. (Twice Amended) The switch station according to claim 95, wherein

said control processor checks for a fault in [the] a communication device connected to the control processor according to the [test] program for a loopback test.

53. (Twice Amended) A switch station [for testing an exchange station for switching cells,] comprising [in the exchange station]:

software executing means for executing software for sending, looping back, and receiving a test cell;

test cell inserting[-] or extracting means for conducting an inter-station loopback test in a switch network by directly inserting the test cell generated by the software executed by said software executing means into an inter-station connection device for switching data between stations in [a] said switch network containing the exchange station, or by directly extracting the test cell from the inter-station connection device,

wherein

said test cell stores information specifying forward and backward paths of the test cell, and

said software executed by said software executing means conducts [an] said inter-station loopback test in the switching network according to the information specifying the forward and backward paths of the test cell.

54. (Twice Amended) A switch station [for testing an exchange station for switching cells,] comprising [in the exchange station]:

software executing means for executing software for sending, looping back, and receiving a test cell;

test cell inserting[-] or extracting means for conducting an inter-station loopback test in a switch network by directly inserting the test cell generated by the software executed by said software executing means into an inter-station connection device for switching data between stations in [a] said switch network containing the exchange station, or by directly extracting the test cell from the inter-station connection device, wherein

said test cell stores information specifying source and destination station telephone numbers of the test cell, and

said software executed by said software executing means conducts [an] said inter-station loopback test in the switching network according to the information specifying the source and destination station telephone numbers of the test cell.